

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

A method for preparing controllably biodegradable silica fibres which includes spinning the fibres from a silica sol of controlled viscosity, controllably biodegradable silica fibres prepared according to the method, methods for controlling the biodegradability of the fibres, the use of controllably biodegradable fibres as sustained and/or controlled release delivery devices for biologically active agents, and pharmaceutical preparations containing such devices.

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